



**The Conspiracy to Kill God
From Genesis 3 to the Temple to Today
John 11:45-57**

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Genesis 2:7

“then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” (ESV)

When man was created, Jesus was the one who was doing this work.

Colossians 1:16.

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.” (ESV)

Everything at the end of creation was proclaimed by God to be good. But a rebel showed up, Lucifer, and he convinced man, to effectively kill God and make themselves god.



Genesis 3:4–6

“But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.” (ESV)

Since that moment, man is fallen. We are all born spiritually dead and find that we want nothing to do with the God opting instead to rule ourselves as god.

What we will see here in John 11 today, is that even when God, as promised, came to this planet as the man Jesus Christ in the incarnation, man still wants to assert control over God even to the point of killing Him.

Jesus provided sign after sign that He is Messiah, that He is God, and there remained then, as now, groups that did not want to be answerable to Him and would rather put Him to death.

The ultimate manifestation of that is yet to come at Armageddon when the armies of the world turn from trying to destroy Israel, to trying to prevent Jesus Christ from taking over.

It will not end well for them. The same rebel we saw in Genesis 3, is still fighting against God today and he and his fallen angels and demons will be involved in that final battle as well. They lost 2000 years ago at the cross.

When we were last together, Jesus had just presented His ultimate sign validating and verifying He is the Messiah. Lazarus has been raised from the dead after four days and there can be no doubt as to who Jesus is. He is indeed the Messiah. He is God

Just as there will be those after Armageddon who will still not embrace Him, so there are those who still refuse Him in the face of the evidence just presented.

John 11:45–46

“Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.” (NASB 2020)

There are those who no matter what, want God dead and out of their lives. They will get their wish at the Great White Throne Judgement and get it for all eternity in hell.

But this was THE miracle of miracles. Jesus had raised others from the dead, but none after such a long period of time had gone by.

The majority of those who were there and saw this happen became believers, but not all. Miracles caused division then, and they continue to do so today. “Many scholars assume that biblical accounts of miracles could not ultimately reflect information from the reports of eyewitnesses. This assumption, however, does not match known reality since millions of eyewitnesses today claim such experiences.” (Keener 2021, xvii)

There are those today who allege God is no longer in the miracle business. In fact, they tend to discount many spiritual gifts.

Here at Calvary, we do not. We are not cessationists. That is the term used for those who teach and believe that certain spiritual gifts are no longer for today, miracles being one of them.



I ceased being in that camp when my roommate at Bible school was healed miraculously of bone cancer. I saw the before and after x-rays. His parents were obedient to what the word says in James 5:13-15.

I have seen God show up time after time since then and truly believe that God is still in the miracle business even today.

James 5:13–15

“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.” (ESV)

By the way, we are obedient to that here at Calvary as well.

In the Bible, miracles are referred to as signs. When the religious leadership asked Jesus for a sign, they were wanting to see Him perform some miracle. Well, He just did. Lazarus is walking around.

But a study of the Bible shows that “not everyone responds positively to such signs. In one town where the apostle Paul and his colleague Barnabas preached, signs got people’s attention, but not all the attention was positive.” (Keener 2021, 4-5)

Acts 14:4–7

“But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, and there they continued to preach the gospel.” (ESV)

You would think seeing Lazarus hop out of the grave after 4 days would be enough to make anyone believe, but it doesn’t. Jesus will prove that point again in just a few weeks when He walks out of the grave post crucifixion. The difference though is Jesus is resurrected.

Imagine living in Jerusalem and getting the news. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. This forces everyone to take sides and forces the fallen members of the unseen realm into a corner. Jesus had just gone in and raided Sheol, bringing someone who was firmly there, back to life.

All throughout His ministry, Jesus had been involved with attacks from people, which were, in reality, attacks from the unseen realm. A careful study of His ministry shows that Jesus consistently confronted the spiritual powers doing so intentionally. The book of John begins right after a major power struggle between Jesus and Satan in the wilderness which Satan lost.

In Matthew 16 Jesus went with His disciples to Caesarea Philippi and at demonic ground zero, was attested by Peter to be the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus, standing adjacent to numerous pagan shrines and the primary shrine to Pan, then tells Peter this.

Matthew 16:17–18

“And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (ESV)

When Jesus said this, He is not setting Peter up to be the first Pope. When He says “rock, the “rock” refers to the mountain location where Jesus makes the statement. When viewed from this perspective, Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, at “this rock” (this mountain—Mount



Hermon). Why? This place was considered the “gates of hell,” the gateway to the realm of the dead, in Old Testament times.” (Heiser 2015, 284)

Gates are defensive structures, not offensive. They are designed to keep you out.

Jesus had just announced to His disciples, and to the principalities and powers, that He intends to build His ecclesia, His church with those who were previously bound for hell. He intends for the church to be the aggressor in this spiritual war by telling us that those defensive structures will not hold under the onslaught of the church.

As you share Jesus with others, this is an important fact to remember. We share from a position of victory. The enemy will lie to you and try to make you think it is impossible and to quit trying, but Jesus tells you and me personally that the gates of hell cannot stand against us. They will not prevail, we will.

The battle we are involved in here as we stand up this work called Calvary Chapel Martin County, is a direct assault on the gates of hell and the strongholds of the enemy here in Florida.

1 John 4:4

“Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (ESV)

Jesus made this announcement adjacent to Mount Hermon, the site of the corruption of mankind engaged in by the fallen Watchers in Genesis 6. The Jews believed that was the location they descended at and then began the interbreeding with mankind creating what is called in the scriptures, giants, Nephilim leading to the flood.

Jesus has announced, with His statement, the great reversal has begun. It is now the gates of hell that are under assault. As believers in Christ, that is what the Great Commission is all about. It is what we do. After that announcement, Jesus is determined to confront the enemy in Jerusalem. But before He heads south to do so, which we are reading about here in John, He takes Peter, James and John up Mount Hermon and there He reveals Himself as who He truly is, the embodied glory-essence of God, the light, made visible by the incarnation, and has a discussion with Moses and Elijah while He is at it.

Mark 9:2–4

“And six days later Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John, and brought them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. And Elijah appeared to them along with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus.” (NASB 2020)

This action, added to what He has just said on what the enemy thought was their turf, means this: “I’m putting the hostile powers of the unseen world on notice. I’ve come to earth to take back what is mine. The kingdom of God is at hand.” (Heiser 2015, 286)

And now, as we have just seen in John 11, Jesus has engaged in direct combat with the enemy and raided death taking one who the fallen thought they had firmly out of the land of the living, back. The fury in the unseen realm is what we see the results of in Jerusalem. They have no idea what He has just egged them on to do.

Jesus has engaged the enemy with several offensive moves forcing the enemy into the corner they are now in. Jesus is completely in control. We need to remember this, Satan and those fallen angels aligned



with him as well as the demons, do not have all wisdom or knowledge. Not hardly. They are still learning just as we are.

They knew what the Old Testament taught, or at least they thought they did. They are making decisions and encouraging those who listen to do actions based on inadequate knowledge and really poor intel. The fallen ones all know who Jesus is. The demons know too. They are now all in with killing Him and solving their problem.

But “the powers of darkness were not aware of God’s plan of salvation. They, like Satan in the wilderness, knew that Yahweh’s messiah had come and that at least one purpose was the repatriation of the nations of the world under Yahweh’s dominion. But they did not discern that the death of the Messiah was the lynchpin to the plan, The death, burial, and resurrection of the messiah would result in the reconstitution of God’s family as one body united to Christ, the Church, which was “circumcision neutral” and not tied to physical descent from Abraham.” (Heiser 2015)

1 Corinthians 2:6–8

“Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (ESV)

Jesus’ action in Bethany, was a major offensive attack on the enemy. They have no idea what is coming next, all they know is it is time to get things moving.

They are about to, they believe, take a definitive offensive action against God and ruin His plans. At least as far as they can discern those plans.

Jesus must go, and there are a few in their camp in choice positions that they can use to help make that happen.

John 11:46–47

“But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done. Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council meeting, and they were saying, “What are we doing in regard to the fact that this man is performing many signs?” (NASB 2020)

The Sanhedrin already wanted Jesus dead. That was made obvious by what happened when they rejected Him in John 10:30-31. By the way, Jesus public ministry in Judea is over.

There were three groups who made up the Sanhedrin: the chief priests (the controlling group and adamantly opposed to Christ), the Pharisees (lay leaders and expert in the Torah, divided somewhat but mostly negative), and the aristocrats or “elders” (no record of them on this). (Osborne 2018, 280)

The chief priests, who are Sadducees, want Jesus dead. As we learned before though, all three groups must be in for anything to happen. They had problems with His miracles before, but now.

Raising a well-known dead person, like Lazarus, has created a crisis for them. They are politicians, not believers. Imagine the headlines in the Jerusalem Post the next day, Lazarus Lives - the Sanhedrin Meets to Determine Next Steps. But Jesus is now become all the rage. His popularity has exceeded that of the religious establishment and people are beginning to believe in Him. Something must be done about this, and they may need the Romans to be complicit since the desired outcome is the death of Jesus.



They have seen several potential rebellions already come and go. The rising leader becomes popular, they get a following, and some action takes place, and they go down in flames. But each time this happens, Rome reminds the Sanhedrin who is in control and some still remember when they lost the power of the death penalty just a few years earlier.

Forty years before the Temple was destroyed, the right to judge capital cases was taken away from Israelite courts. (Neusner 2008, Sanhedrin, fol 24A, 7:2 1:3A)

Genesis 49:10

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.” (NKJV)

When the event occurred, it meant Messiah had arrived. But they missed it.

The members of the Sanhedrin council recognized at the time the fulfillment of Jacob’s prophecy. Rabbi Rachmon wrote, “When the members of the Sanhedrin council found themselves deprived of their right over life and death, a general consternation took possession of them; they covered their heads with ashes, and their bodies with sackcloth, exclaiming, ‘Woe unto us, for the scepter has departed from Judah, and the Messiah has not come!’ ” (Talmud Bab., Sanh., chap. 4, fol. 37, recto.). (Greeson 1989, 30)

But He had come. And now He has given irrefutable signs and miracles, and they refuse to believe. We have the same problem today. Thanks to archaeology, much of the Bible has been verified. But there are still those who reject. The problem isn’t miracles, those we have seen. The problem is unbelief. This problem began in Genesis 3 and the infection continues today.

Jesus made fantastic promises to us as believers, but we also suffer from the unbelief infection.

John 14:12–15

“Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (NASB 2020)

Unbelief has turned into apostasy for the religious establishment, much like what is happening today.

Even as we see in Revelation, in the face of evidence, rejection continues.

Revelation 14:6–7

“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”” (NKJV)

Those who should know better, those who know the Torah, but have rejected the one promised, are busy making decisions but not looking to the scriptures at all. This is where apostasy leads to. This is why today we see some churches supporting all kinds of sinful lifestyles simply because they now know better than the Bible.

John 11:48–53

“If we let Him go on like this, all the people will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take over both our place and our nation.” But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them,



“You know nothing at all, nor are you taking into account that it is in your best interest that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish instead.” Now he did not say this on his own, but as he was high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation; and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.” (NASB 2020)

The number one complaint of those who are apostate, is political and self-centered.

John 11:48

“If we let Him go on like this, all the people will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take over both our place and our nation.” (NASB 2020)

First, they imply that they are the ones who have control over the people and the situation. They don't. I have heard that before though. Did you know that there are those today, who assume that because I am a Pastor, that I have control over what the congregation thinks, says, and does?

If you buy that one, see me afterward because I have a bridge for sale in Brooklyn too.

I have no control whatsoever about what you think, say or do. I teach God's word as clearly and simply as I can, and then leave it up to the Holy Spirit to work on the hearts of those who listen. He is the one who can shape and mold, but even then, there is this thing called free will. God could force you to think and do a certain way, but He doesn't. There is someone though who would like to dictate and control, and even he cannot guarantee results. He thought man would worship him, instead man worshipped himself.

This control assumption is why politicians love to gain access to and try and get into churches.

There is a temptation to get involved from time to time. But our job is a simple one. We are to catch and clean fish, not to clean the pond.

We are here to make disciples. That's messy. Everyone becomes more like Jesus at their own speed, and some even go backwards at times too.

The religious establishment is fearful of losing everything they hold dear because of Jesus. They are reflecting the fear of the fallen ones.

They needed to do something about Christ, and that continues to be the problem even today. How do we keep Him out of the marketplace? How do we keep Him off television? How do we stop athletes from giving Him the glory first? How do we keep Him out of politics and most importantly, out of the church? Yes, the Laodicean church of the last days has kicked Jesus out. Note what He says to them.

Revelation 3:20

“Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them, and they will eat with me.” (GNB)

Jesus is standing outside the church of the end of the age, which has multiple locations and denominations in it these days. Not everyone teaches the Bible anymore.

For the religious leadership though in Jerusalem, this is all about power.

The fear of the leadership is loss of control of the people. Something they never really had anyhow. Yes, there have been some problems with rebellion in the past, and they have been charged by the Romans to



keep a lid on it if possible. So, what we are seeing here is the leadership, thinking and acting in their own self-interests, and not those of the people, forget what the Torah says. God's word isn't even in the equation anymore.

They have lied to and attempted to manipulate the Romans for years. The true goal, the retention of whatever power they now have and keep the money coming. If the people believe in Him, then we may lose control. Why, there might even be a revival and we can't let that happen because revivals are messy. Best to put a lid on this.

Jesus has been calling the people to be doers of the word, and those who believe, change. But if the people believe in Jesus, and embrace Him as Messiah, then the Romans will step in and replace us and do away with the nation. Because we do not believe that He is the Messiah. We know better than the prophets and God.

Here is the thing, Zechariah, 500 years earlier, prophesied that Messiah would be rejected. The Good Shepherd would be rejected by His own people as led by the so-called Shepherds of the people turning the majority of the flock, Judea, into one that is doomed to slaughter (Zechariah 11:1-14).

They thought they were protecting the nation, instead they were ensuring its ultimate destruction at the hands of Rome and ensuring a global diaspora by fulfilling what Zechariah prophesied they would do 500 years earlier.

Thanks to the Romans, the High Priest was no longer tied into being a descendant of Aaron, now it was a political office and the High Priest served at the pleasure of Rome. This is why we read Caiaphas being the High Priest that year. It is a way for John to tell us the Aaronic priesthood has been corrupted. So, what does the High Priest have to say about this?

John 11:49–53

“But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, nor are you taking into account that it is in your best interest that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish instead.” Now he did not say this on his own, but as he was high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation; and not for the nation only, but in order that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.” (NASB 2020)

Caiaphas is the high priest and had managed to stay in power for nineteen years. “That Caiaphas held power as long as he did (nineteen years) reinforces the suspicion one gets from other nonpriestly sources concerning the character of the high priesthood in this period: he was a skilled but probably often ruthless politician. He kept the public peace in a manner that satisfied both Rome and the populace, and in so doing preserved his own position. He was well-to-do, part of the most hellenized elite, and hence had much at stake personally in keeping the peace.” (Keener, *The Gospel of John: A Commentary* 2012, 853)

Based on Caiaphas comment to the concern of those he supposedly leads, it is obvious he believes he is not only above them, but probably above everyone else too. He is not a leader. He is definitely not a shepherd as Jesus would describe it since he cares only about himself and not even about the small flock of the Sanhedrin. When your manager listens to your input and starts off this way, it is time to begin seeking employment elsewhere. “You know nothing at all.”

He has already made up his mind what needs to happen based on his political mind, experience and his arrogance. It is also ironic, that he has just told those who hate Jesus, “You know nothing at all.”



Here is the thing, Caiaphas knows even less. He is a rude, proud arrogant Sadducee and yes, he is indeed holding his peers in contempt. He has a god complex, he is god, they aren't and because Jesus has shown up, He needs to go too. He makes a statement here that John will bring up again "nor are you taking into account that it is in your best interest that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish instead." (John 11:50, NASB 2020)

He is telling his peers that they are too dense to even work out for themselves that Jesus needs to die for the people. That is also prophetic as when Jesus dies on the cross, he is indeed dying for the people, all of us.

When Caiaphas said this, he did not mean it in that sense. Caiaphas "probably meant that Jesus was to be 'devoted' to death, sacrificed as a scapegoat, in order to spare the nation and its leaders." (Carson 1991, 422)

This way, they could all continue in their cushy jobs. But their actions have fulfilled what Zechariah said would happen to the Good Shepherd, they have rejected Him. As far as they are concerned, Jesus is a dead man walking, it is no longer if, but when.

John 11:54

"Therefore Jesus no longer continued to walk publicly among the Jews, but went away from there to the region near the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim; and there He stayed with the disciples." (NASB 2020)

The word gets back to Jesus. The Sanhedrin has at least 71 members, keeping a secret, especially between co-conspirators, is hard to do. It is not surprising that the word gets back to Jesus.

It is not yet time, so He effectively ends public ministry and dedicates His time to preparing His disciples for the task ahead.

Jesus withdraws to a village called Ephraim (probably Old Testament Ephron, 2 Ch. 13:19), most likely the modern village of Et-Taiyibeh, four miles north-east of Bethel and about twelve miles from Jerusalem—far enough away to be safe for the time being, but close enough to be able to attend the culminating Passover (vv. 55ff.) at the hour determined by his Father (12:23). (Carson 1991, 423-424)

Passover is coming, but it is not quite yet time. Jesus knows the day and the hour He is to present Himself as Messiah in fulfillment of what Daniel prophesied.

Daniel 9:25

"Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler—the Anointed One—comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times." (NLT)

As Passover approached though, it was customary for many attendees to begin to gather in Jerusalem.

John 11:55–57

"Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up to Jerusalem from the country prior to the Passover, in order to purify themselves. So they were looking for Jesus, and saying to one another as they stood in the temple area, "What do you think; that He will not come to the feast at all?" Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where He was, he was to report it, so that they might arrest Him." (NASB 2020)



Some of the acts of purification the attendees would need to do, could take some time to finish. If it took a week to be purified, then attendees may be arriving as much as two weeks before the day, to have the time.

As they arrived, they were looking for Jesus. Shades of the Feast of Tabernacles. This time though, orders are out to arrest Him, which none of those looking for Jesus know about.

They simply lied and told the people they were looking for Jesus and if they saw Him, to report it.

Will He or won't He come? That is the question of the day for those who have already made their way to Jerusalem.

That is a question being asked today too. Will Jesus come back for His church as He promised, or will He continue to delay. All I know is we need to be ready for Him to come.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

ABC’s of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.



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